

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SCS-03 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10 SPC-03 OC-06 OPR-02

PA-03 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-10 NEA-10 PC-04 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 131803Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8595

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION QUITO FROM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL SEPT 12,
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUAYAQUIL 974

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO CHILEAN COUP: BOMBS AND TEAR GAS

1. GUAYAQUIL EXPERIENCED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF STUDENT-PROVOKED UNREST SEPTEMBER 11 IN THE WAKE OF CHILEAN PRESIDENT ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW AND SUBSEQUENT SUICIDE. ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL CROWDS GATHERED AND THREE DYNAMITE BOMBS SET OFF IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF CONSULATE GENERAL, RAPID POLICE RESPONSE QUICKLY CONTAINED AND DISPERSED DEMONSTRATORS WITHOUT REPORTED CASUALTIES.

2. NEWS FROM CHILE COINCIDED WITH STUDENT MEETING ALREADY UNDERWAY AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAYAQUIL DOWNTOWN STUDENT CENTER COMMEMORATING DEATH OF YOUNG TEACHER DURING DEMONSTRATION LAST MONTH (GUAYAQUIL 921 AND PREVIOUS). MEETING EXPECTEDLY FLOWED OUT INTO STREETS OF CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT WHERE IT WAS DISPERSED WITH TEAR GAS ABOUT MIDDAY.

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3. POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS INCIDENT DEVELOPED DURING EARLY EVENING

AS GROUP OF STUDENTS ESTIMATED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED GATHERED FOR PRO-
ALLENDE PEP RALLY AT MAIN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ON EDGE OF CITY,
BEGAN MARCHING TOWARD CENTER OF TOWN ALONG GUAYAQUIL MAIN STREET
NUEVE DE OCTUBRE (ON WHICH CONGEN LOCATED). DEMONSTRATION
HOWEVER, APPARENTLY CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO POLICE WHO RESPONDED
IN FORCE AND WITH NOTABLE ENERGY, BLOCKING OFF ROUTE OF MARCH TO
PEDESTRIANS AND DISPERSING CROWD AWAY FROM CITY. THREE EXPLOSIONS,
REPORTEDLY OF DYNAMITE CHARGES, WERE THROWN FROM CAR IN HEAVY
TRAFFIC ON NUEVE DE OCTUBRE BUT NONE CLOSER THAN SEVERAL BLOCKS
FROM CONSULATE.

4. WE GRATIFIED BY TIMELY AND SPONTANEOUS POLICE RESPONSE TO
POTENTIAL CONGEN SECURITY PROBLEMS, THEY HAVING STATIONED SOME TWO
DOZEN RIOT POLICE PLUS ARMORED CAR WITH TEAR GAS CANNON PROMINENTLY
IN FRONT OF BUILDING. NO CASUALTIES REPORTED FROM ABOVE FESTIVITIES.
CITY APPARENTLY RETURNED TO NORMAL BUT WE DO NOT DISCOUNT
POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER DISTURBANCES DURING NEXT FEW DAYS.

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